

# CZAR OF RUSSIA GIVES UP THRONE

ENTIRE GOVERNMENT, CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION, FALLS.

## REVOLUTION IS SUCCESSFUL

Grand Duke Michael, Czar's Younger Brother, Named Regent—Cry of People for Food Impels Troops to Join Revolt—Empress of Russia Hated as German, in Hiding.

Petrograd.—The emperor of Russia has abdicated and Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, his younger brother, has been named as regent. The Russian ministry, charged with corruption and incompetence, has been swept out of office.

One minister, Alexander Protopopoff, head of the interior department, is reported to have been killed and the other ministers, as well as the president of the imperial council, are under arrest.

A new national cabinet is announced, with Prince Lvoff as president of the council and premier, and the other offices held by men close to the Russian people. Russian socialists have agreed to adhere to the new Russian government.

### Cries for Food Start Revolt.

For several days previous to the overthrow of the government Petrograd had been the scene of one of the most remarkable risings in history. Beginning with minor food riots and labor strikes, the cry for food reached the hearts of the soldiers, and one by one regiments rebelled, until finally those troops that had for a time stood loyal to the government, took up their arms and marched into the ranks of the revolutionists.

The president of the duma, Michael V. Rodzianko, was the leading figure among the deputies who unanimously decided to oppose the imperial order for a dissolution of the house.

**Will of People Must Prevail.**  
They continued their sessions and M. Rodzianko informed the emperor, then at the front, that the hour had struck when the will of the people must prevail.

When the imperial council realized the gravity of the situation and added its appeal to that of the duma that the emperor should take steps to give the people a policy and government in accordance with their desires and in order that there should be no interference with carrying on the war to a victorious ending.

The emperor hastened back from the front, only to find that the revolution had been successful and that a new government was in control. The empress, who, it is alleged, has been influential in the councils opposed to the wishes of the people, is reported to have fled or to be in hiding.

Although considerable fighting took place, it is not believed that the casualties are large.

The uprising bore the character rather of a mock revolution staged for an immense audience. Cossacks charging down the street did so in a half-hearted fashion, pliantly without malice, or intent to harm the crowds that they playfully dispersed. The troops exchanged good-natured rivalry with the workmen and women and as they rode were cheered by the populace.

Long lines of soldiers stationed in dramatic attitudes across Nevsky Prospect, with their guns pointed at an imaginary foe, appeared to be taking part in a realistic tableau. Machine guns firing rounds of blank cartridges seemed to add another realistic touch to a tremendous theatrical production, which was using the whole city as a stage.

Until Sunday night, March 11, this pageant continued without serious interruption. Then in a flash the whole scene lost its theatrical quality; it became a genuine revolution.

The regiments had received an order from the commandant to fire upon persons assembled in the street. This caused immediate dissonance among the troops, who did not understand why they should be compelled to take violent measures against fellow citizens, whose chief offense was that they were hungry and were asking the government to supply bread.

Several regiments deserted and a pitched battle began between the troops of the government and the revolutionists.

A long night battle occurred between the mutinous regiments and the police at the end of St. Catharine canal, immediately in front of the historic church, built over the spot where Alexander II was killed by a

### Distrust Czar's German Wife.

London.—According to information received here, the Russian people have been most distrustful during recent events of the personal influence of Empress Alexandra. She was supposed to exercise the greatest influence over Emperor Nicholas. It is stated that her whereabouts is not known, but it is believed she is in seclusion, fearing the populace. The Empress Alexandra before her marriage to the emperor of Russia, in 1894, was the German Princess Alix of Hesse-Darmstadt.

bomb. The police finally fled to roof tops all over the city and were seen no more in the streets during the entire term of the fighting.

Still, on Monday morning, the government troops appeared to control all the principal squares of the city. Then came a period when it was impossible to distinguish one side from the other. There was no definite line between the factions.

The turning point appeared to come about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. For two hours the opposing regiments passively confronted each other along the wide Liteiny prospect in almost complete silence.

From time to time emissaries from the revolutionary side rode to the opposing ranks and exhorted them to join the side of the people. For a while the result seemed to hang in the balance. The troops appeared irresolute, awaiting the commands of their officers, who themselves were in doubt as to what they should do.

Desultory firing continued along the side streets between groups of government troops and revolutionists, but the regiments upon whose decision the outcome rested still confronted each other with machine guns and rifles in readiness.

### Soldiers Finally Give In.

Suddenly a few volleys were exchanged; there was another period of silent suspense, and the government regiments finally marched over to join the revolutionists. A few hours after the first clash, this entire section of Petrograd, in which are located the duma building, artillery headquarters and the chief military barracks, passed into the hands of the revolutionary forces and the warfare swept like a tornado to other parts of the city, where the scene was duplicated.

### Like a Miracle.

At first it seemed a miracle that the revolutionists, without prearranged plans, without leadership or organization, could in such a short time, with comparative ease, achieve a victory over the government. But the secret lay in the reluctance of the troops to take sides against the people.

### Long at Odds With Czar.

Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, the new regent of Russia, is the younger and only brother of Emperor Nicholas, with whom he has been at odds for many years. Until the birth of Grand Duke Alexis Nicolaevitch, son of Emperor Nicholas, in 1904, he was the first in succession to the Russian throne. Grand Duke Michael is the favorite son of the Dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna, sister of the Dowager Queen Alexandra of Great Britain. He also has been strongly opposed to the German influence in the Russian imperial family.

### Banished From Russia.

Banished from Russia by his brother early in 1913, because of his morganatic marriage, Grand Duke Michael spent some time in exile in England. He returned to Russia late in August, 1914, and was reported to have taken a command in the army. Since then there have been no reports of his whereabouts and activities.

### Blow to Germany.

Washington, D. C.—The overthrow of the Russian autocracy was accepted in all quarters here as a complete victory for the anti-German sentiment in the empire, removing virtually all chance of Russia being drawn away from her allies into a separate peace.

The sensation created by the news of the successful revolution, the turning out of the ministry and the arrest of pro-Germans was followed by another more profound when press dispatches announced the abdication of Emperor Nicholas.

The revolution was not wholly unexpected. But the abdication of the emperor was dumfounding to both official and diplomatic circles.

It had been assumed that in belief the emperor, influenced by his German wife, and pro-Teutonic advisers, was lukewarm or worse in the support of his allies, he would be permitted to continue nominally as the head of the new government. Neither officials nor diplomats could understand what the revolutionary leaders expected to accomplish by shifting the crown.

According to one usually well-informed diplomat, the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, proclaimed regent, has been a bitter personal antagonist of the emperor since the latter refused to recognize his marriage some years ago. Moreover, the grand duke is said to have opposed the emperor on every public question that has arisen.

### News Received With Joy.

London.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced in the House of Commons that Emperor Nicholas had abdicated and that Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch had been appointed regent. The soldiers sided with the Duma, but there was no serious loss of life. The chancellor added that it was comforting to know that the movement was not directed at securing peace by Russia. The news was received with joy in other entente capitals.

### Thugs Kill Paymaster.

Cleveland, O.—C. Mowrey, paymaster for N. J. Rich & Co., knit goods manufacturers, was shot and killed by two automobile bandits in front of the Rich factory here. The robbers secured \$5,400 and escaped in an automobile.

### Large Family; Less Trouble.

Chicago, Ill.—Non-support cases in the court of domestic relations have shown that the larger the family the less trouble in domestic affairs, according to a report made public.

# THREE AMERICAN VESSELS ARE SUNK; RAILROADS YIELD TO BROTHERHOODS

WILSON MAY ASK AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH ISSUE.

## VIRTUAL STATE OF WAR EXISTS

Of the Three Ships Destroyed, One Sunk Without Warning, Belief Is "Overt Act" Has Come—Train Men Consider Rail Agreement Great Victory; Get Eight-Hour Day.

Washington.—With the announcement of the ruthless destruction of three unarmed American merchantmen by submarines, it was unofficially admitted here that virtually a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Technically the United States remains in a position of armed neutrality. Whether this shall be changed before April 16, the date fixed for a special session of congress, the war-making branch of the government, President Wilson has not decided. One step the president is contemplating is a call for an immediate session of congress to hear an address asking for authority to adopt aggressive measures against the submarine menace. Already American ships are being armed to defend themselves; the next move must be to send warships with orders to seek out submarines and clear the trans-Atlantic lanes.

### Disagree Over Power.

Some of the highest officials of the government hold that the executive has the power to declare that a state of war exists and to proceed with aggressive protective steps pending the assembling of congress. There is no indication, however, that the president will follow that course.

Of the three ships destroyed two were unloaded and homeward bound and all were American built, American owned and officered and manned largely by American citizens.

The sinking of the three American ships by German submarines has brought the government face to face with the problem of formulating a definite policy for the nation in case the United States actually enters the war. This possibility was mentioned by the president in his inaugural address on March 5.

### Overt Act Has Come.

All of the conditions outlined by the president in his message announcing the diplomatic break with Germany as leading to a state of armed neutrality, have now been fulfilled. The "overt act" described by him has actually come, if in fact it had not been committed when the president went before congress again. Since then he has established a state of armed neutrality with the specific authority of congress.

International lawyers and constitutional experts showed no hesitancy on receipt of this news in saying that President Wilson has full authority to interpret this as an act of war, and announced that this country considers that an actual state of war exists by reason of Germany's flagrant assault on American shipping.

### Sunk Without Warning.

London.—The American steamer Vigilant was sunk without warning by a German submarine. The submarine did not appear. The captain, first, second and third engineers and twenty-three of the crew have been landed at the Seilly Islands. The fourth engineer and thirteen men are missing.

The American steamer City of Memphis, which left Cardiff March 16 in ballast for New York, was sunk on the 17th. When it left port, the City of Memphis had the Stars and Stripes painted on both sides. It encountered a submarine about 5 o'clock in the evening. The German commander ordered the captain of the steamer to leave the ship within fifteen minutes. The entire crew entered five boats and the submarine then fired a torpedo which struck the vessel on the starboard side, tearing a great hole through which the sea poured. The steamer settled down quickly and foundered within a few minutes. During the night the boats became separated, and at 4 o'clock Sunday morning three boat crews were picked up by a patrol vessel and landed. These boats contained thirty-three men, mostly Americans. All the officers were Americans.

The Illinois, from London for Port Arthur, Tex., in ballast, was sunk at 8 o'clock Sunday morning, March 18.

### Three Killed as Auto Ditched.

Milton, Ia.—Mrs. Staunter and two small children were killed and Dr. Staunter and son perhaps fatally injured when the automobile in which they were riding went into a ditch.

### Sees German Withdrawal.

London.—A German withdrawal on a great scale on the western front is foreshadowed by Major Morant in an article published recently in the Berliner Tageblatt.

### Rail Strike Averted.

New York.—The conference committee of railroad managers, after a session lasting several days, broken only during short intervals, early Monday morning, March 19, authorized President Wilson's mediators to make whatever arrangements were necessary with the railroad brotherhoods to call off the threatened strike.

The formal letter in which this authorization was made, signed by Elisha Lee, chairman of the managers' committee, was as follows:

"In the national crisis precipitated by the event of which we just heard, the national conference of railroads join with you in the conviction that neither at home nor abroad should there be fear or hope that the efficient operation of the railroads of the country will be hampered or impaired.

### May Assure Nation.

"Therefore you are authorized to assure the nation there will be no strike and as a basis for such assurance were hereby authorize the committee of the Council of National Defense to grant to employees who are about to strike whatever adjustment your committee deems necessary to guarantee the uninterrupted and efficient operation of the railroads as an indispensable arm of national defense."

The decision reached by the managers at their midnight conference means that the brotherhoods have won an important victory, although it does not bring them all their original demands. By the agreement, it is assumed they will be awarded pro-rata time, for overtime on the basic eight-hour day, which they have been assured.

Their original demands called for time and a half for overtime on the same basic day.

### Ten Hours Pay for Eight.

The men will get their present pay for ten hours for eight hours work under the agreement. These concessions on the part of the managers are virtually what the employees contended they would gain under the Adamson law if it were declared constitutional.

Immediately after Secretary Lane had made his announcement, the brotherhood leaders sent telegrams to all the general chairmen informing them that the strike had been declared off.

The announcement of the managers that they had yielded, apparently came as a surprise to the brotherhood chiefs.

### Appeal to Patriotism.

Earnest appeals by Secretary Lane and the other mediators to the patriotism of the railroad managers are believed to have been an important factor in bringing about a settlement. The critical situation in which the country finds itself because of the sinking of American ships by German submarines was impressed upon them and they were told that if a strike were permitted at this time it would be a national calamity. Similar pressure was brought to bear upon the brotherhood chiefs.

### Norris Wants "Recall" Election.

Washington.—To determine whether his opposition to the armed ship bill represented the wishes of the people of Nebraska, Senator George W. Norris, in a letter to Governor Keith Neville, asks that the governor recommend to the Nebraska legislature the passage of an act for a special election before May 1 which will permit the people of the state to recall Mr. Norris if they wish. Directing attention to his constitutional protection against recall, Mr. Norris promises to waive this immunity and to abide by the result of the special election, stating that he does not wish to serve as the representative of the people of Nebraska, if he does not actually represent them.

### 781,500 Tons Sunk in February.

Berlin.—Merchant ships of an aggregate gross tonnage of 781,500 were destroyed in February as a result of war measures of the central powers, the admiralty announced. The statement follows: In February 303 merchant ships, of an aggregate gross tonnage of 781,500, were lost by the war measures of the central powers. Among them were 292 hostile ships, with an aggregate gross tonnage of 644,000, and seventy-six neutral ships, of an aggregate gross tonnage of 137,500.

### One Man Street Car Kills Boy.

Cedar Rapids, Ia.—Martin Skinner, aged 4 years, was killed and his mother, Mrs. Martin Skinner, seriously injured when they were struck by a street car operated by one man.

### Planning Patrol Fleet.

Washington.—Preliminary steps were taken by the navy department toward contracting for the quick construction of 100 or more high speed coast patrol boats of a new type for scouting against submarines. At a conference, in which a score of builders were represented, assurances were given that deliveries could be begun within four months. There was no announcement, but it is understood that contracts will be awarded shortly.

# IS SELF SUPPORTING

PENITENTIARY LIGHT AND POWER SELLE TO OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS

## BOARD CIG GREAT BUSINESS

Items of General Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources Around the State House

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Charging each state institution for the electric light service which its penitentiary power plant provides is the plan of the state board of control for putting that plant on a self-supporting basis.

The service lights the Lincoln hospital for the insane, Orthopedic hospital, the capitol building, the governor's mansion, the home for dependent children, in addition to the penitentiary itself.

Vouchers have just passed through the hands of the state auditor showing that the hospital for the insane has paid out \$3,457.20 for service since April 1, 1916. The charge is at the rate of 2 cents a kilowatt.

Outside of the strictly business end of the enterprise, the charge might be called by some a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, since all state institutions are under the state board of control. In the case of the hospital mentioned, the cost of the lights are transferred from the asylum cash fund to the cash fund of the penitentiary.

Under the new plan, the board of control has asked the legislature to reduce the penitentiary appropriation about \$20,000 for the biennium on the ground that the power plant can pay its own keep. It takes nothing from the other institutions since they would otherwise have to pay for their lights, probably on a higher basis.

### Echo of Capitol National Failure.

Appointment of three members of each legislative house to investigate the desirability of suing the directors of the failed Capitol National bank of Lincoln for state money involving the amount of \$300,000, lost when that institution went under, is asked in resolutions introduced in the house and senate. The federal supreme court decision has held that the directors are liable in their personal and individual capacity for all damages and the object of the resolution is to determine the willingness of the state legislature to report the "amount of state loss and the probability of recovering the same."

### Passes Federal Aid Bill.

The house in committee as a whole has passed house bill 722, which accepts the federal good aids. The bill levies .65 of a mill for three years to meet the requirements of the federal act granting aid to the states in the building of permanent highways. This is the end of one of the hardest fought issues in the house this session.

### Insurance Board Did Big Business.

The state insurance board did a \$150,000 business in February alone and its ledger still shows a balance due from insurance companies of \$100,454.30, according to the monthly statement just issued by Insurance Commissioner W. B. Eastham. It is the biggest February business in the history of the department.

During the quarter ending February 28, the department received in cash \$93,927.42, which is distributed among the following funds in this proportion: school fund, \$2,886; cash fund, \$3,354.58; general fund, \$87,686.84. From the 103 companies in the state the department has \$140,246.29 in taxes charged, of which \$84,242.09 has been paid.

### Say Figures Disprove Statement.

While charges have been made that appropriations of the 1915 legislature exceeded \$9,800,000 and increased amazingly over the appropriations of the 1913 session, figures given out by the state assessment board show that but \$6,300,000 was raised from the taxpayers for the biennium of 1915 and 1916.

A committee comprising Wilson of Dodge, Adams of Dawes and Chappell of Kearney appointed last week to investigate rumors that state officers and members of the legislature have been receiving free telephone service and that the telephone interests are using free service to defeat telephone legislation, has not yet announced a meeting. It is understood the records of state officers are to be investigated with the end in view of ascertaining whether such officials are using telephones for private purposes and charging the expense to the state.

### Senate Passes Landlord Bill.

Adjutant General Phil Hall of the Nebraska national guard has announced that he will urge the war department to establish a summer training camp for civilians at the rifle range grounds at Ashland. These grounds are a government reservation, "Ashland is an ideal place for summer camp work," said General Hall. "A continuous camp could be maintained through the summer not only for Nebraskans, but for men from other states. I hope to get sufficient funds to make badly needed improvements which will make the grounds still more suitable for the camps."

## AUTO TOLL ROADS.

Have Sanction of Lower House of Legislature.

Auto toll roads throughout the more thickly settled parts of Nebraska are an immediate possibility as the result of action by the house in approving the Peterson-Jackson bill, H. R. 710, to allow corporations to "lay out, locate, construct, furnish, maintain operate and enjoy hard surfaced roads for the transportation thereon of freight, express and passengers by means of auto vehicles."

Under the proposed law such corporations are to be given the right of eminent domain, subject to the same regulations as those governing the railway companies, which means that they may take possession of as much real estate as is necessary to provide for their roads, stations and work shops. While it is understood that, in the event of the final passage of the bill, the first project undertaken would be to build a road from Omaha to Lincoln, it is also believed by some that such projects could be carried out with success between other cities in various parts of the state.

The action of the house in approving the Peterson-Jackson toll roads bill may result in their establishment in various portions of the state, particularly in the eastern section.

### State Bank Deposits Increase.

Deposits in state banks of Nebraska for the last three months increased \$26,064,272.44, in spite of financial predictions that the tide had reached its height. This is according to the abstract of the condition at the close of business February 13, made public by Acting Secretary Johnson of the state banking board.

This is the largest quarterly increase it is said, on record in the office of the banking board.

The total deposits in the 346 banks reporting amounted to \$191,591,892.10, distributed among 462,381 depositors. The total at the previous call was \$165,000,000, and six months ago \$149,000,000. During the year 1916 the number of the new state banks was only increased by thirty-two.

Since the decision of the Nebraska supreme court in February denied the right of the state banking board to withhold or reject charters of applicants, the number of state banks up to Saturday afternoon had been increased to 879. Only 846 were in operation, however, at the time of the February call.

### To Amend Compensation Bill.

A bill amending the workmen's compensation law has been reported out by the house committee on labor and placed on general file. It is H. R. 526, and has been amended to include the main provisions of two other bills, H. R. 44 and H. R. 182. In general, the effect of the amended bill is as follows:

1. Allows an injured employee, or in case of death, his personal representative, six months time after the injury in which to decide whether he will accept compensation under the law or bring suit for damages.

2. Raises compensation for total disability or loss of members, from one-half to two-thirds of weekly wages continuing for specified periods of time.

3. Reduces initial non-compensatory period for minor injuries from two weeks to one week.

A bill forbidding employers to deduct from the wages of their employees, under any circumstances, was killed by the labor committee.

An appropriation of \$20,000 for paying the railroad fare and other expenses of Nebraska civil war veterans to Vicksburg for the memorial anniversary celebration to be held at the national cemetery there this year has been reported out by the finance committee of the house. This was done over the opposition of Chairman Rieschick. The bill is one that Messrs. Jacobson and Fred Johnson introduced. Its supporters have been making the sentimental plea that this is probably the last opportunity the state will have to do anything of a substantial nature for the civil war veterans, owing to the rapidly increasing death rate which is carrying them off. They have made a partial canvass of the house members and are confident of passing the bill.

In the list of bills reported out in the house is one from the labor committee providing an eight-hour day for all occupations save farming.

Measures to prevent "monopoly control" of farm products are recommended to the legislature in a report filed by the special committee appointed early in the session. Chief Clerk Potts started to read it, but the house grew restive after ten or fifteen minutes and an effort was made to sidetrack the document. Thereupon Mr. McAllister, chairman of the committee and author of the report, came forward and began reading it himself. He was interrupted by a motion to order it printed in the journal.

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